



Returning home from a March work trip to Austin, Texas, Alicia never thought her weekend would end in an emergency trip to Stevenson Memorial Hospital. It was a chilly Saturday morning when Alicia initially felt the first wave of discomfort. Shrugging it off, she tried managing the pain at home.

"Appendicitis? That never even crossed my mind," she recalls.

However, by Sunday at 4 a.m., Alicia's pain had grown to an excruciating level. At the same time, her husband was also waking to get ready for work. Alicia, a Toronto native, and her husband, originally from Mississauga, had only recently settled into Alliston a couple of years before. Navigating their healthcare options in their new home was daunting, to say the least, and Alicia's initial thought was to rush to urgent care in Etobicoke, more than an hour-long drive.

Looking back, Alicia was grateful they didn't make that trip. "Choosing Stevenson was the best decision we could have made."

Alicia didn't know what a community hospital like Stevenson Memorial was like. Growing up in Toronto with a mother who worked in health care, she was almost anxious about what a smaller hospital could offer.

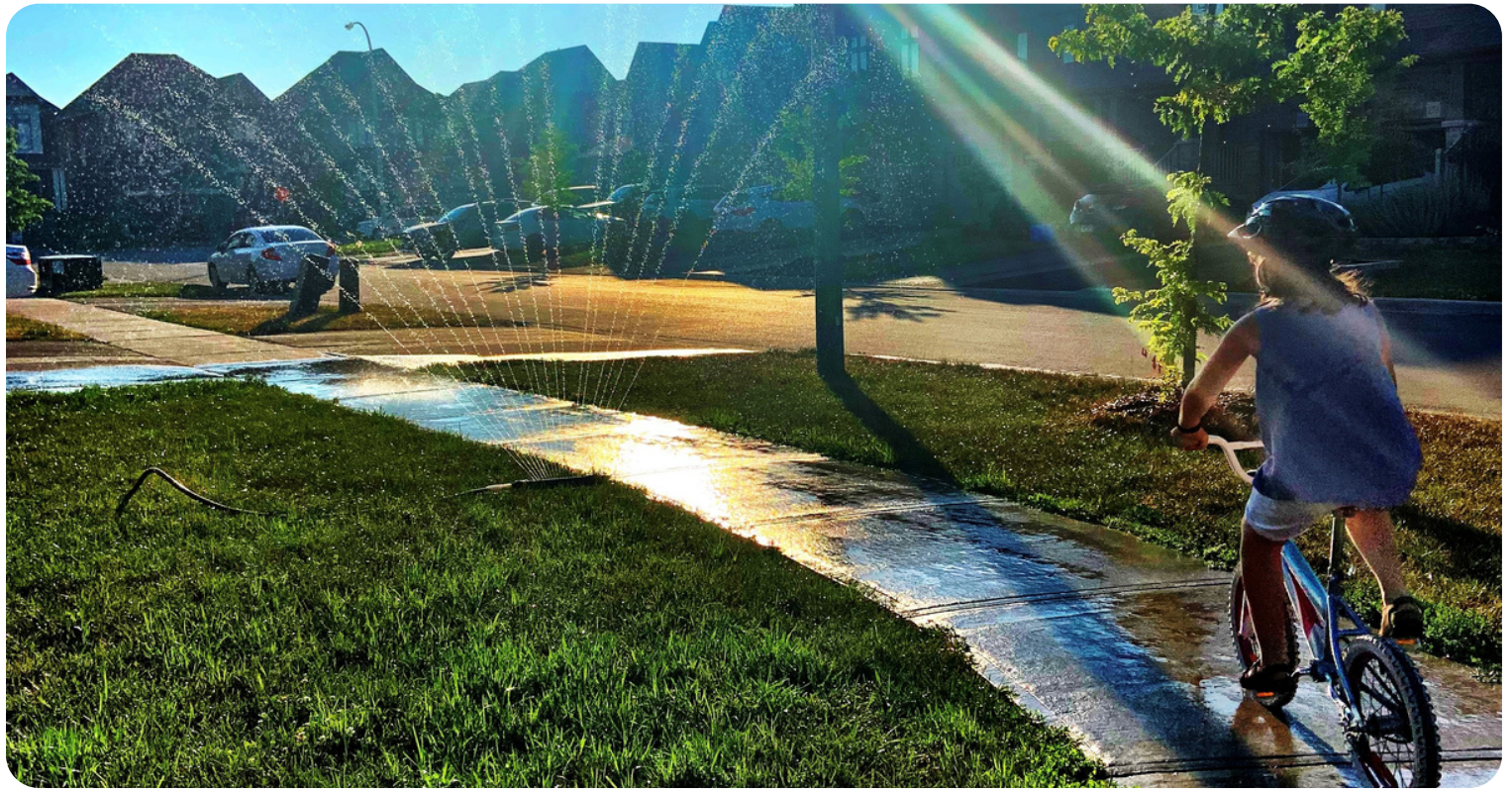
But that initial anxiety disappeared when they visited Stevenson.

Amidst the pain and stress of her morning, Alicia doesn't remember the names of all the staff who helped her, but she remembers how caring and efficient everyone was from the time she was admitted. Arriving shortly after 4 a.m., Alicia was seen by staff, went through an x-ray and CT scan, and was admitted for surgery in less than 12 hours.

By 3 p.m., when most of us were enjoying a rather mild March afternoon, Alicia's diagnosis was clear: appendicitis. Not only that but it was found during surgery that her appendix had actually ruptured, turning her condition from terrible pain to something that has taken lives. With the expert care of Stevenson Memorial Hospital's surgeons, Alicia underwent a laparoscopic surgery that would prevent that potentially fatal outcome.

Alicia's stay at Stevenson, which spanned from Sunday to Wednesday, was marked by unwavering support and care. From the kind nurse who attended to her on her first night to the ever-encouraging staff who cheered her on as she made her post-surgery rounds in the hallway, Alicia felt like more than just a patient.





The attention to detail, the genuine compassion, is a hallmark of community healthcare facilities like Stevenson.

Reflecting on her ordeal, Alicia has some advice for residents of New Tecumseth: never underestimate the value of a community hospital. "When we were buying a house, proximity to a hospital was on the bottom of our list." As someone in her early thirties, Alicia didn't think she would need to be visiting Stevenson anytime soon.

But when life throws its unpredictable curveballs, Stevenson is always there to provide world-class care to our community.

"Everyone—even if you're new to the community or a younger family—should support their community hospital, even if you don't think you're going to use it," Alicia says.

The staff and volunteers at Stevenson are there to help our family and neighbours every day, but community hospitals like ours don't receive government funding to maintain existing or purchase new equipment. To continue providing efficient, compassionate care to residents like Alicia, we rely on donors like you.

Would you consider supporting Stevenson Memorial Hospital today?

Your generosity goes further than you realize. When you donate to the Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation, you are providing life-saving equipment that is used every single day. You are giving hope and care to the residents of South Simcoe and surrounding areas.

And your gift will touch the lives of the tens of thousands of people who rely on our community hospital every year.

You can make a difference today simply by visiting [transformingstevenson.ca/ways-to-give](https://transformingstevenson.ca/ways-to-give)

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Thomas  
CEO, Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation